



Capital Collection Highlights State's Artwork

A Capital Collection, the Library's latest publication, highlights 29 of the most significant paintings and sculptures from the approximately 400 works in Virginia's state art collection. From grand historical paintings to world-renowned sculptures of Virginia heroes, from bucolic landscapes to allegorical figures, *A Capital Collection* captures the depth and importance of one of the state's least-understood collections and resources.

For more than 200 years the commonwealth of Virginia has commemorated its history, culture and notable citizens by commissioning and collecting art. Internationally important works, such as Jean-Antoine Houdon's *George Washington*, have long been on public view in the State Capitol, but the vast majority of the commonwealth's treasures reside outside the public eye, in buildings around Richmond's Capitol Square and at The Library of Virginia. *A Capital Collection* features works ranging from Hiram Powers's bust of Daniel Webster to Eugène Louis Lami's monumental painting *Storming of a British Redoubt by American Troops at Yorktown*. New photography reveals the intricate details of these treasures in vibrant color, and essays describe each work and its maker, chronicling major figures of American and European art such as Joel Tanner Hart, Francis Leggatt Chantrey, William Couper, John Adams Elder, John Frazee, Alexander Galt, Louis Mathieu Didier Guillaume, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer, Attilio Piccirilli, William

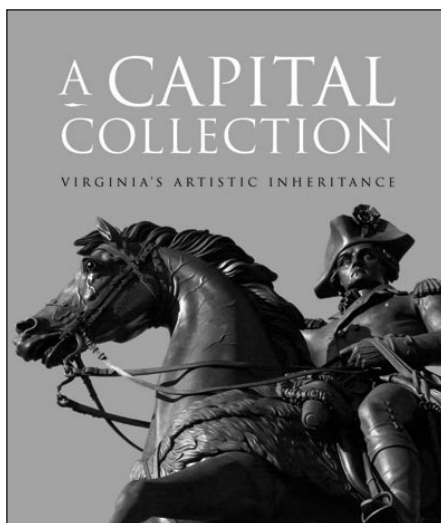
Thompson Russell Smith and Edward Virginius Valentine. *A Capital Collection* is a must for readers interested in the rich artistic and cultural history of the Commonwealth and the United States.

Barbara C. Batson and Tracy L. Kameron co-authored *A Capital Collection*. Batson, exhibitions coordinator at the Library of Virginia, has

curated or coordinated more than 30 exhibitions at the Library of Virginia and at the Valentine Richmond History Center, where in 2002 she was guest curator of the Edward V. Valentine (1838–1930) Sculpture Studio. She also has worked at Old Salem and the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, in Winston-Salem, N.C., at Historic Deerfield, in Deerfield, Mass., and for Craig and Tarlton, Inc., dealers in American decorative and fine arts, in Raleigh, N.C.

Tracy L. Kameron is curator of the state art collection for the Library of Virginia. Her recent publications on the collection are "The Restoration of a Monarch: Virginia's Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I," in *Virginia Cavalcade* (2002), and, with Scott W. Nolley, "Rediscovering an American Icon: Houdon's Washington," in *Colonial Williamsburg* (2003).

A Capital Collection is available for \$25 at local bookstores and through the Virginia Shop at the Library of Virginia by calling 804-692-3524 or online at the Library's homepage by selecting The Virginia Shop.



2006 EXHIBITION TO FEATURE WORKS BY AFRICAN AMERICAN SCULPTOR LESLIE G. BOLLING

On July 22, 2006, the Library of Virginia will open an exhibition of wood carvings by Leslie Garland Bolling (1898–1955), the first exhibition of his work since 1937. Of more than 50 titles compiled, 22 carvings have been located to date. Known best for his days of the

week series, in which he depicted the activities of African Americans who worked as domestic servants, Bolling achieved fame for his skill as a carver through exhibitions sponsored by the Harmon Foundation in the 1930s. Born in Dendron, Surry County, Bolling studied at Hampton Institute and at Virginia Union University. He remained in Richmond, working as a porter at Everett Waddey and Wortendyke and, briefly, as a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. Married twice, Bolling had no children. He died in New York City in 1955, largely forgotten.

The journey to mount the exhibition grew out of the entry published in the second volume of the Library of Virginia's *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*. Exhibition coordinator

Barbara Batson's research into Bolling's life and career coincided with that of Elizabeth O'Leary, associate curator of American art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Dr. O'Leary, then a consultant to the "below stairs" exhibition at Maymont, the Dooley mansion in Richmond, was interested in the days of the week. As the two worked on Bolling, they discussed the possibility of mounting an exhibition of his work. Knowing that the third volume of the *DVB* would be out in 2006, Batson thought an exhibition on Bolling would bring to public view again Bolling's talent and also demonstrate the utility of the *DVB* project. The Library was lucky to locate *Aunt Monday* (also known as *Washerwoman*) and display her in ...see **Bolling**, pg. 6



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AYRES VISITS ARCHIVES

Earlier this spring, the Library of Virginia archives welcomed a visitor from Bath, England. James Ayres, in Richmond to speak on his *Building the Georgian City*, perused items from the architectural drawings collection with Tyler Potterfield, chairman of Richmond's Lost Trades School. The author of seven books on art and architecture, founder of the Building of Bath Museum and former director of the John Judkyn Memorial (American Museum) in Bath, Ayres has enjoyed a distinguished career as a curator and historian and is a Fellow of the British Society of Antiquaries.

The son of a sculptor, Ayres took particular interest in the Library's full-scale drawings, which were typically used on the job site and do not often survive in archival collections. Ayres and Potterfield examined drawings of Eastern State Hospital (1829) and the Washington Equestrian Statue (1850), and items from the Charles F. Gillette and Richmond City Engineers Collections.

—submitted by Vincent Brooks,
Collection Management Services



Documentary... director of the Virginia Center for Digital History and executive producer of the documentary, was a recipient of the Mead Endowment in 2004.

The 21 students enrolled in the Spring 2005 History of the United States course, "Documenting the Civil Rights Era," examined archival film footage from two Virginia television stations, conducted extensive research at the Library of Virginia, and interviewed individuals involved in civil rights protests. At the Library, students pored over the Danville Corporation Court 1963 Civil Rights Case Files, 1963–1973 (Accession 38099). The collection consists of court papers and legal files relating to civil rights demonstrations in Danville. These files include correspondence, dictabelts, evidence, judgments, petitions, photographs, subpoenas and transcripts of testimony that document the legal aspects of the demonstrations from the Danville Corporation Court to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. During the summer of 1963, the leaders of the Danville civil rights movement organized a series of demonstrations. On June 5, the demonstrations became unruly as participants sat down on Main Street to impede traffic. The judge of the corporation court and the Danville City Council made legal efforts to end the demonstrations, but they continued. On June 10, after a full day of protests, the police, with nightsticks and fire hoses, attacked the demonstrators picketing the city jail. Forty-seven of the 50 demonstrators required medical attention. By mid-July more than 250 demonstrators had been arrested. The demonstrations ended toward the end of summer, but the resulting trials and appeal were not resolved until 1973.

Rising Up thoughtfully examines the civil rights movement in Danville, Richmond, Norfolk and elsewhere. Students at the University of Virginia studied microfilm, listened to recordings and reviewed letters to the governor. Resources at the Library of Virginia helped to tell this important story, which will later air on public television.

—submitted by Jennifer Davis McDaid,
Archives and Information Services

James Ayres (left) studies an 1829 architectural drawing of Eastern State Hospital with Tyler Potterfield of the Lost Trades School.

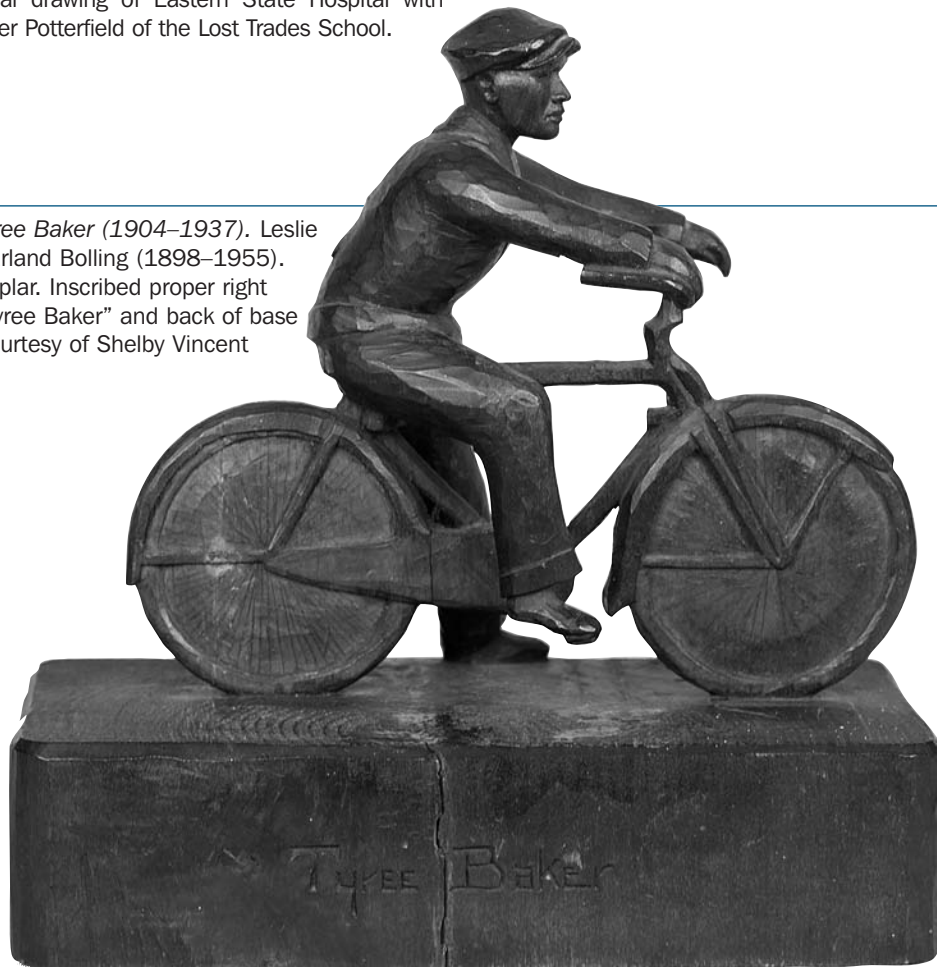
Bolling... the Library's exhibition *Legacies of the New Deal* (2003).

As fate would have it, Larry Hall, a features writer for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, wrote an article on Bolling in "Your Section," a weekly feature of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that resulted in the discovery of several previously unknown carvings, including a *Salome* and two outstanding nudes. The located carvings now live in Richmond, Chicago, Philadelphia, Southampton County, Maryland and Detroit. Accompanying the exhibition will be a catalog with an essay on Bolling and color illustrations of the carvings in exhibited. The exhibition will close on October 21, 2006.

If you have information about the whereabouts of other carvings by Leslie Bolling, please contact Barbara Batson, exhibition coordinator, 804-692-3518, <bbatson@lva.lib.va.us>.

—submitted by Barbara Batson,
Collection Management Services

Tyree Baker (1904–1937). Leslie Garland Bolling (1898–1955). Poplar. Inscribed proper right "Tyree Baker" and back of base
Courtesy of Shelby Vincent



Tippecanoe and Tyler, too

Recently, the Library of Virginia acquired an interesting letter that offered insight into a local Virginian's view of U.S. politics. George Williams (1817–1895), the son of Samuel Williams (1790–1834) and Nancy Ellyson Thomas Williams of Halifax County, Virginia, was a commission merchant in Richmond, Virginia. He married Martha Cole Leigh (1820–1864) in 1857 and in 1874, married her sister, Rebecca Watkins Leigh (1817–1883). He died in Richmond and was buried at St. John's Episcopal Church, Halifax County, Virginia.

On October 20, 1840, George W. Williams wrote to Lewis Williams Wimbish of Fayette County, Tennessee, regarding the economic depression and the upcoming presidential election.

"It was astonishing to me to hear how great the pressure in the money market was in that country. I had hoped that no country was suffering in a monetary point of view more than the old Dominion, but the best paper on demand here can be bought at a far less discount than twenty five or thirty per cent. It cannot be had at so heavy a discount. Though money is unmarkably scarce and I find it more difficult to make collections than I have heretofore experienced."

George Williams was also a supporter of the Whig party and backed the presidential candidacy of a fellow Virginian, William Henry Harrison. William Henry Harrison was born on "Berkeley" plantation, Charles City County, Virginia in 1773. His father, Benjamin Harrison (1726–1791) was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. William Henry Harrison attended Hampden-Sydney College and in 1791 joined the army. He took part in the campaigns against Native Americans in the Northwest Territory and later served as secretary of the territory and governor of Indiana Territory.

In 1811, Harrison and his men fought off a surprise attack by the Shawnee Prophet's (ca. 1775–1837) forces near Tippecanoe

Creek, in present-day Indiana. Shawnee Prophet, also known as Tenskwautawa, was the brother of Tecumseh (ca. 1768–1813). Although the battle was not a clear victory for either side, the Native American confederacy was weakened. Harrison obtained the land from the Indians and earned the nickname "Old Tippecanoe."

In 1840, the Whig Party chose Harrison as its presidential candidate, with John Tyler (1790–1862) as his running mate. Harrison's Whig campaign is often considered the first modern presidential campaign. The slogan of the day was "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too." There were organized rallies for the candidate on the Tippecanoe battlefield, with bands playing, fiery speeches and free food for all.

On the Whig party, George William notes, *"I hope however when old Tippecanoe takes the chair, that times will be more prosperous and favorable. I have but little doubt of his election. So far as elections have been held throughout the Union there is a decided gain and a tremendous one too for the Whigs. Virginia is considered doubtful but I think when we come to the polls we shall find her voting on the proper side for old Tip... There is to be a great meeting of Whigs in Lynchburg this week, some of the great men of the land are expected here."*

Williams, along with other Virginians, properly foresaw the outcome of the presidential election, and in 1840, William Henry Harrison was elected the ninth President of the United States. Unfortunately for Harrison and his supporters, William Henry Harrison set many presidential records in his short time in office. After giving the longest inauguration speech (105 minutes), Harrison became the first president to die in office (of pneumonia), after serving the shortest term (one month).

—submitted by Renee Savits,
Collection Management Services
Originally published in the Description
Services Branch in-house newsletter

VIRGINIA FORUM: CALL FOR PAPERS

Virginia has long lacked a regular forum for the ongoing discussion of issues and initiatives pertinent to all aspects of its history. The Virginia Forum, a conference planned for April 7–8, 2006, at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia, is intended to address this deficiency. The event will be of interest to students, teachers and scholars, as well as historical professionals from museums, historical societies, historic sites and all related fields including public history, preservation, geography, literature and archaeology.

Proposals for presentations on any area of scholarship or research on Virginia pre-history and history are encouraged. This event is sponsored by the History Center of Shenandoah University and the Shenandoah University Community History Project. Warren R. Hofstra, of Shenandoah University, and Brent Tarter, of the Library of Virginia, are conference chairs. The conference will conclude with an open discussion asking all participants how best to establish the Virginia Forum as an annual event for the promotion of scholarship and writing on the history of Virginia. Submit proposals by September 15, 2005 to:

Warren R. Hofstra, Shenandoah University,
1460 University Drive, Winchester, Virginia
22601, <whofstra@su.edu>.

*The reelections and histories of men
and women throughout the world
are contained in books.... America's
greatness is not only recorded in
books, but it is also dependent upon
each and every citizen being able to
utilize public libraries.*

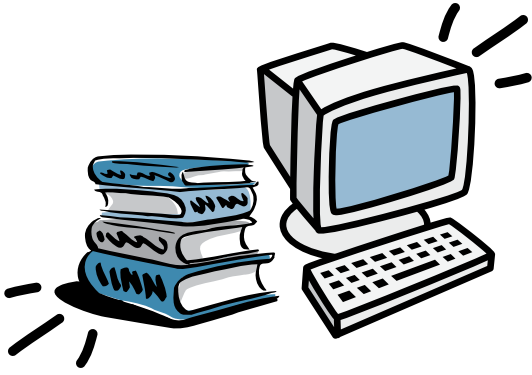
—Cardinal Terence Cooke
(1921–1983)

DOCUMENTARY EXAMINES CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

A new student documentary that examines key activists and events that shaped the civil rights movement in 20th-century Virginia premiered on May 10 at the University of Virginia. (State Archivist Conley Edwards, local records archivist Sarah Nerney, and archives research coordinator Jennifer McDaid

attended.) *Rising Up* is a collaborative documentary that tells the history of the Virginia civil rights movement from the perspective of the people who participated in it. From the first sit-ins of the 1930s to the violent uprising in Danville, *Rising Up* examines the factors that inspired ordinary Virginians to stand

up and take action. The documentary was produced by the Community Ideas Stations in partnership with the University of Virginia, and funded through the Alumni Association's Ernest C. Mead Endowment, a grant that supports student-faculty interaction. William G. Thomas III, ...see [Documentary](#), pg. 6



Did you know...?

Each of Virginia's 95 counties and 39 independent cities boasts an official seal. In response to a request from a delegate, Reference Services has created a compilation of the official seals for the entire state. After months of phone calls, letters and e-mails to city and county administrative offices, the collection is now complete and available for use. Some of the seals are hand drawn, others incorporate photographs, and some include elaborate coats of arms. Lisa Wehrmann, the compiler, is in the process of writing a brief overview for each seal which will explain the meaning of the symbols used and how the designs were chosen. Stop by the East Reference Desk at the Library of Virginia and check out this interesting addition to the Ready Reference Collection.

Library Subscribes to HeritageQuest Online

This spring the Library has added HeritageQuest to its stock of online materials of interest to genealogists and local historians. Complementing Ancestry Library Edition, HeritageQuest also offers access to the federal census schedules and provides a searchable, digital image database of 80,000 pension and bounty-land-warrant application files based on the participation of American military, naval, and marine officers and enlisted men in the Revolutionary War.

Further, Proquest, the online producer of both Ancestry and HeritageQuest has taken advantage of its vast nationwide library of more than 25,000 local and family histories, to assemble a digital library that can be searched by keyword, family name or place. This not only provides an enhanced index to classic reference books, but also includes less well-known materials. For instance, a researcher may know her ancestors in one line lived four generations in Augusta County and may have explored most books available for that general area. Now in searching, she finds a biographical dictionary of Indiana that sketches a little-considered great uncle with pioneering tendencies. The sketch naturally includes remarks about his father and grandfather. Clearly this widens the scope of our book collection, in a very time-effective way. Digital copies of the pages insure accurate transcription.

Finally, HeritageQuest includes PERSI (Periodical Source Index), an index to his-

torical and genealogical society periodicals developed by the Allen County Public Library. Although such publications are valuable sources of genealogical data, their contents are often underused because of the lack of compiled indexing. With PERSI, a researcher can search for articles by family name, by locality and by how-to subjects. This is particularly useful to researchers in our library, as we have an extensive collection of such periodicals for Virginia societies.

HeritageQuest is available in the Library of Virginia reading rooms on the catalog and database stations. Researchers are invited to try this easy-to-use, rich database.

Books for Virginia Bird Lovers

Virginia's diverse habitats from mountain to coastal result in an equally diverse avifauna. Approximately 370 bird species live within the state.

The Library of Virginia has numerous books on the Commonwealth's birdlife from technical papers of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), to publications by local bird clubs, to books about birds in specific Virginia regions, to adaptations of articles by newspaper columnists.

One of the newest books is the *History of Ornithology in Virginia* (2003) by David W. Johnston who has taught ornithology at the University of Virginia's Mountain Lake

Biological Station for nearly 20 years. From paleontological and archaeological discoveries of bird fossils and remains, through the accounts of colonial explorers and naturalist such as Captain James Smith and Mark Catesby (one of the Library's "treasures" is the 1754 edition of his *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*), to 20th-century conservation efforts, the author traces Virginia's long ornithological heritage. The reader learns that Thomas Jefferson's "Birds of Virginia" in his *Notes on the State of Virginia* was the first attempt to list all Virginia birds, that James Audubon traveled through Virginia seeking subscribers to *The Birds of America*, and that Roger Tory Peterson, while stationed at Fort Belvoir, persuaded his superiors to reroute a line of march to avoid a horned lark's nest.

David W. Johnston is also compiler of *A Birder's Guide to Virginia* (1997). In this book he describes more than 70 birding sites from Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge to Grayson Highlands State Park giving directions, maps, habitats and seasonal lists of birds. A more recent book, *Virginia Bird Watching: A Year-Round Guide* (2004) is by Bill Thompson III, and the staff of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. A generic guide, it features 100 most commonly encountered birds with color photographs, range maps and feeding and nesting information. It is made Virginia specific by the prefatory material by Thelma Dalmas, a past president of VSO. She writes about the state's ecoregions, bird watching by season, lists of the 10 must-see birds, 10 best bird-watching spots and resources.

FLAT STANLEY VISITS THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

A similar guide is *Birds of Virginia: Field Guide* (2002) by Stan Tekiela. Charles R. Blem professor of ornithology at Virginia Commonwealth University served as consultant for the book. The guide pictures a bird on the left hand of a page. On the facing page are the descriptions of the bird—size, nesting, egg information, migration, food, similar species and range map

The Library has a complete run from 1930 of *The Raven*, the journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology and other VSO publications including newsletters, checklists, a breeding atlas and a study of egg dates. Some of the books by local bird clubs in the collection are *Birds of the Virginia Cumberlands: An Annotated Checklist and Site Guide* (2001) by Richard H. Peake; *The Birds of Smyth County Virginia: An Annotated Checklist* (1999) by Tony Decker; and *Birds of Rockingham County, Virginia* (1998) edited by Clair Mellinger. The collection also includes books on birdlife in the Shenandoah National Park, Chesapeake Bay area, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, around Mountain Lake (written by David W. Johnston) and along the Blue Ridge Parkway. *Random Ramblings of an Everyday Birdwatcher* (1999) is a two-volume collection of nature columns written by YuLee R. Larner for Staunton's *The Daily News Leader*. Jerry Uhlman, who wrote the birding column "Flyways and Byways" for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, has written *A Birder's Guide to Virginia's Historic James River* (2002).



Archivists at the Library of Virginia answer a wide variety of correspondence from across the commonwealth and the nation, fielding questions from genealogists, scholars and researchers on Virginia history. Recently the staff received a letter from a Covina, California, fifth-grader. The envelope also contained a 10-inch tall paper doll. It was our first Flat Stanley.

In the classic 1964 book, *Flat Stanley*, by Jeff Brown, Stanley Lambchop is squashed flat by a falling bulletin board. Here is one boy who doesn't let his profile-challenged body stop him from living life fully—he uses his new lack of dimension to travel in envelopes, rescue lost jewelry from street drains, and foil art thieves. The Flat Stanley Project was subsequently devised by a group of teachers who wanted to provide students with an opportunity to write letters and explore the world around them. The Library's Flat Stanley was adopted by the Archives Research Services staff, who took him to the stacks, the reference desks and the vault.

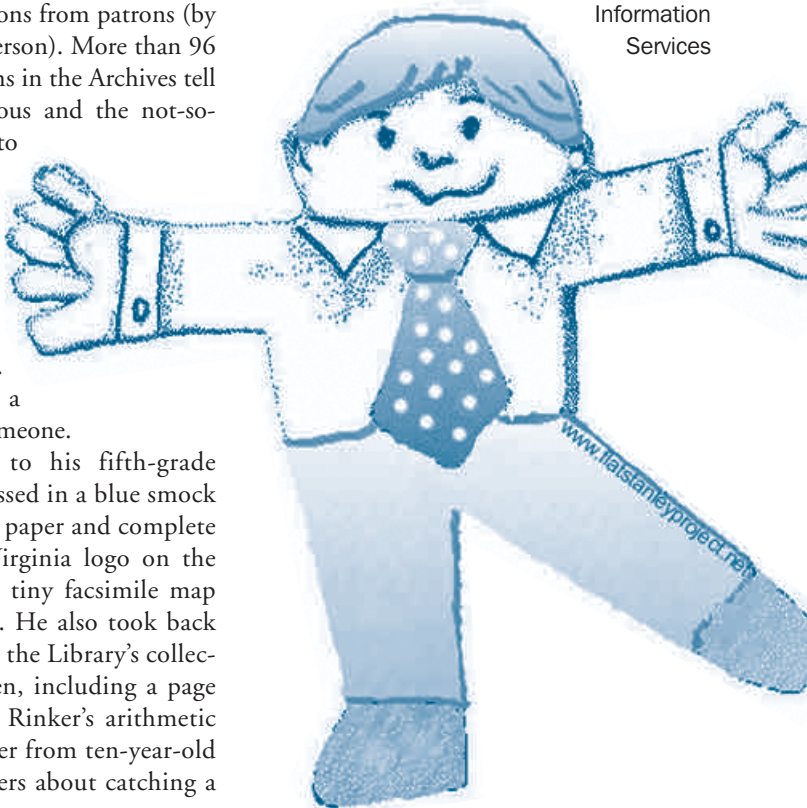
The staff crafted a creative response to Stanley's questions about the Library and its mission. Working in the archives, we explained, is like being a detective. Every day archivists answer questions from patrons (by phone, e-mail and in person). More than 96 million manuscript items in the Archives tell the stories of the famous and the not-so-famous, and allow us to see the past in different ways. The treasures here come in many different guises, from a brief letter to a table-sized map to a recording of a radio quiz show. They are all part of a story that matters to someone.

Stanley returned to his fifth-grade classroom snappily dressed in a blue smock (cut from construction paper and complete with the Library of Virginia logo on the pocket) and holding a tiny facsimile map of Virginia from 1590. He also took back copies of documents in the Library's collection created by children, including a page from 13-year-old Levi Rinker's arithmetic book (1822) and a letter from ten-year-old Joe Bryan to his brothers about catching a muskrat (1856).

Especially intriguing was a small volume that belonged to a boarding school student in Alexandria. George S. Roberts, the 13-year-old student, kept a notebook for the 1852–1853 school year, including lists of the planets and the bones in the human body. Also copied in the book are word problems like this one: "Two pedestrians start from the same point. The first steps twice as fast as the second, but the second makes five steps while the first makes but one. At the end of a certain time they are 300 feet apart. Now allowing each of the longer paces to be three feet, how far will each have traveled?" Calculations and the answer are included.

Our adventurous Flat Stanley returned to California in an envelope filled with memorabilia from his visit—Library brochures, bookmarks, a pencil and a pair of white cotton gloves. Flat Stanley had a fine time working on the reference desk and learning about Virginia history. We enjoyed having him visit, because it allowed us to share the story of Virginia as told in the Library's rich collections with a younger audience.

—submitted by Jennifer Davis McDaid,
Archives and
Information
Services



Library Coordinates Move of Capitol Art

The Virginia State Capitol was closed to the public in March so that an extensive renovation project can proceed. The 18th-century Capitol Building, designed by Thomas Jefferson, will get much needed upgrades and rehabilitation. A large underground extension will be added that will house expanded visitor services, an exhibit gallery, improved security and additional work space for Capitol staff.

In preparation for the Capitol's renovation, the Library of Virginia coordinated the monumental task of removing or protecting nearly 200 important works of art, artifacts and historical plaques. The move was carried out during two months this spring by Artex Fine Art Services of Landover, Maryland, and Fine Art Conservation of Virginia, a Richmond-based company.

Safely moving items of great value, fragility or large size involves an enormous amount of skill and care, and the work at times posed major challenges for Artex. The bronze statue of Robert E. Lee by Rudolph Evans and the monumental portrait of Thomas Jefferson by George Catlin, for example, were too large to fit into the elevators and had to be crated and lifted from a window and roof with cranes.

Tracy L. Kameron, curator of the state art collection, in consultation with Scott Nolley of Fine Art Conservation of Virginia, the project conservator, determined that two pieces should remain in the building during the renovation: the statue of George Washington by Jean-Antoine Houdon, and the monumental painting of the battle of Yorktown by Eugène Louis Lami. The curator and conservator worked with Artex to design and construct secure, environmentally controlled enclosures to safely house these significant works of art during the renovation. The enclosures contain heating, cooling and air cleaning equipment, as well as devices that transmit data on temperature, humidity and vibration, so the conservator can monitor conditions regularly.

Many of the works of art removed from the Capitol are featured in the Library of Virginia's exhibition *Virginia Collects: Art from Capitol Square* running through April 1, 2006. Other works have gone into storage, and some are undergoing conservation during the Capitol's closure. The works of art and artifacts will be reinstalled in the Capitol in approximately 18 months, in preparation for the reopening of the renovated Capitol building in January 2007.

For more information, visit <www.virginiacapitol.gov>.

—submitted by Tracy Kameron, Collection Management Services

DAVID WALKER AND ANTI-SLAVERY LITERATURE IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Remember Americans, that we must and shall be free and enlightened as you are, will you wait until we shall, under God, obtain our liberty by the crushing arm of power? Will it not be dreadful for you? I speak Americans for your good. We must and shall be free I say, in spite of you. You may do your best to keep us in wretchedness and misery, to enrich you and your children; but God will deliver us from under you. And wo, wo, will be to you if we have to obtain our freedom by fighting.

—David Walker, *Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*

David Walker, a free black man, wrote to Thomas Lewis in Richmond on December 8, 1829, enclosing 30 copies of the first edition of his pamphlet *An Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World*. Walker instructed Lewis to sell the pamphlet for 12 cents among the Richmond's African American population or to provide them free of charge. Walker used Old Testament theology and the natural rights philosophy of the Declaration of Independence to describe the plight of African Americans, both slave and free, in four articles: "Our wretchedness in consequence of slavery," "Our wretchedness in consequence of ignorance," "Our wretchedness in consequence of the preachers of the religion of Jesus Christ," and "Our wretchedness in consequence of the colonizing plan." Walker's *Appeal* advocated rebellions throughout the South and caused many southern states, including Virginia, to pass laws against slave literacy and the dissemination of anti-slavery literature. Walker's *Appeal* is considered ...see [Walker](#), pg. 7



Ben Gage with Artex Fine Arts Services stabilizes the bust of Lafayette for its move.

A Little Parliament Receives "Notable Document" Honor

The Library of Virginia has again been honored by the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association. The Library's publication *A Little Parliament: The Virginia General Assembly in the Seventeenth Century* by Warren M. Billings has been designated a "Notable Document of 2004" as announced in the May 15, 2005 issue of *Library Journal*.

The ALA/GODORT Notable Documents List is created from nominations by librarians and agencies from around the country. The recognition is designed to promote awareness and acquisition of government publications by libraries and use by library patrons. The list of notable publications also is intended to recognize the individuals and agencies involved in producing these excellent sources of information and inspiration.

A Little Parliament joins several other Library of Virginia publications honored by GODORT. Recent honorees include *The Capitol of Virginia: A Landmark of American Architecture* (2002), and *Virginia in Maps* (2000).

RHEA PAPERS AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS

The Library of Virginia is pleased to announce that the papers of William Francis Rhea (LVA accession 41312) have been processed and are now available to researchers. Rhea (1858–1931), a Democrat, represented Virginia's 9th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1899 to 1903. The 9th District consisted (and still consists) of the counties of southwestern Virginia. Rhea's papers cover a wide range of topics such as local, state and national politics, including Rhea's contested elections in 1898 and 1900 against Republican James A. Walker; the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1901–1902; and a range of requests from Rhea's constituents. The collection contains Rhea's replies to requests for patronage, his effort to mount a defense of his election, and drafts of a speech on the United States occupation of the Philippines. A finding aid for the papers can be found online through the Library's catalog.

Walker... by some historians as the beginning of the Abolitionist Movement. This pamphlet along with the letter to Thomas Lewis was recently cataloged at the Library of Virginia as part of the Office of the Speaker's Executive Communications.

David Walker was born in North Carolina to a slave father and a free mother about 1796. He relocated to Boston in 1826. Greatly influenced by his experiences with slavery in the South, Walker served as a member of the Massachusetts General Colored Association and as Boston's principal agent to the *Freedom's Journal*, America's first African American newspaper. Walker wrote the first edition of *Appeal* in 1829, along with two further editions by 1830. He distributed his pamphlet throughout the South by sewing copies into the lining of sailors' clothing. The wide distribution of the pamphlet caused a stir among the whites of the South. As a result of the discovery of the pamphlets, black sailors were quarantined in Georgia ports, a white mariner was arrested in South Carolina, and a black carpenter was killed in North Carolina.

In Virginia, Walker's letter to Thomas Lewis was discovered by Joseph Mayo, commonwealth's attorney for the Hustings Court of the City of Richmond, and promptly

Genealogist Unites Man With Family

In February 2004 Char McCargo Bah, a prominent African American genealogist, received an e-mail from Harald Stoelting, a German citizen. Stoelting was looking for help in locating his father, an African American World War II veteran who served in Germany after the war. Stoelting was born on October 8, 1947, to Anna Lisa Stoelting. The young mother was unable to support her child and turned him over to foster care. Harald stayed in touch with his mother who shared details about his father including his name and the street he lived on in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Harald's father was named James Clark. Using the name and other details provided by Stoelting, Bah was able to give him detailed

information about his father. She contacted numerous government agencies searching for data on James Clark. At the Library of Virginia, Bah used the Lynchburg city directories from 1937–1942 to show that James Clark who rented space at 801 Early Street lived in the home of her great-aunt Mary Clark Martin. Bah discovered that her great-uncle James Clark was Stoelting's father!

On April 24 Bah and Stoelting visited the Library of Virginia so he could see his father's name and address in the directories.

Through Bah's research Stoelting now knows a great deal about the father he never met. He now has family in Virginia, including a cousin, Char McCargo Bah.



Harald Stoelting and Char Bah look at information on James Clark in a Lynchburg directory.

delivered to Governor William Branch Giles. Mayo informed the governor that Walker's letter never reached the intended recipient on account of the death of Lewis. Instead, the letter made it to the hands of another free black man who began to circulate the literature. The mayor of Richmond managed to reacquire 20 of the 30 copies of Walker's pamphlet. Governor Giles presented Walker's letter and one of these pamphlets to the Executive Council, which advised him to transmit the literature to the General Assembly to obtain a law to prevent the further circulation of insurrectionary materials. The governor's communication to Linn Banks, Speaker of the House of Delegates, was labeled "confidential," and no mention is made of it in the House journals; however, the communication's endorsement indicates

that it was laid on the table on January 7, 1830. As a result of Walker's *Appeal*, the General Assembly passed an act to amend the act concerning slaves, free negroes and mulattoes, which prohibited meetings for teaching free negroes or mulattoes and fined any white person for teaching slaves to read or write.

Walker died in 1830, shortly after the publication of the third edition of his pamphlet. He never saw his vision of an immediate abolition of slaves, but the impact of the *Appeal* was far-reaching. The letter from Walker to Lewis, is the only surviving document written in the hand of David Walker.

—submitted by Craig Moore, Collection Management Services
Originally published in the Description Services Branch in-house newsletter

8TH ANNUAL
LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA AWARDS
Celebration

HONORING VIRGINIA AUTHORS & FRIENDS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005

Library of Virginia Literary Awards

Nominations for the 8th Annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards are now complete and, as in past years, a strong field of books will vie for awards in three categories. The list of nominated books include 35 fiction titles, 60 in non-fiction, and 16 in poetry for a grand total of 111 titles published in 2004 by a Virginia author or on a Virginia theme. You can access the complete list of nominated books for the 2005 awards at <<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwedo/awards/index.htm>>. The nominated authors include past winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and many other prestigious literary honors—one nominated book has already received the American Historical Association's Bancroft Prize. As always, the list also contains many young, up-and-coming authors who are making fresh contributions to Virginia literature and history, among them writers who will undoubtedly be the luminaries of the future. Judging for the awards has already begun, and three finalists will be selected in each category. The winners will be announced at the 8th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors and Friends to be held on Saturday, October 15, 2005.

—submitted by Gregg Kimball, Collection Management Services



Elizabeth B. Lacy, Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, chats with Ann Compton of ABC News, at the reception following the History Makers panel at the Virginia Women Through Four Centuries Symposium, held at the Library in March.

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